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10 APR 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, FE/ [REDACTED]
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ATTENTION: [REDACTED] -- EYES ONLY

SUBJECT: Comments on Vietnam Orientation No. 14

1. Pursuant to your request, the following are some comments on Vietnam Orientation No. 14, presented 20 - 24 March 1967.

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2. My overall reaction, which I think was shared by all [REDACTED] students, was that the VO is very worthwhile. It is certainly a must for all Agency personnel newly assigned to Vietnam Station, except possibly for those who will be taking the new "SVNOC" being prepared by [REDACTED]. The latter group will very likely need only the administrative and general housekeeping orientation, keyed to the group's prospective assignment to the provinces.

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3. A few changes might make the course more effective.

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a. [REDACTED] (OCI) talk on "The Military Arm of Counterinsurgency" was poorly done, and in part superfluous. The presentations of Messrs. Allen (O/SAVA) and [REDACTED], with minor adjustments and complemented by the Westmoreland film, cover the subject adequately. Also, the more than ample bibliography suggests reading for those who want to explore the subject further.

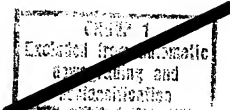
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b. [REDACTED] "The Official American Community in Saigon" was all right as far as he went, but more useful would be a presentation describing:

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(2) The "Nation-Building Community" -- [REDACTED] AID programs, etc., and GVN counterparts.

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(3) U.S. and GVN organization and relationships for conduct of the fighting war -- MACV, the JGS, the Corps structure, the U.S. and Free World Forces, etc., to include Station relationships and contacts.

(4) The operation of the Country Team/Mission Council.

This would provide a more complete and suitable framework for your talk on the role, objectives, overall organization and status of the Vietnam Station.

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c. Unfortunately, [REDACTED] just is not a good lecturer or briefer. But rather than get into a detailed exposition of Vietnam reporting, I recommend that the essentials be incorporated into [REDACTED] excellent discussion of "The Intelligence Division," and that he be given more time on the air for this.

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4. As to the others, [REDACTED] were "no-shows," -- hence, no comment. The presentations of the following were all well received, despite a rather jumbled scheduling caused by their availability: [REDACTED] Mr. Allen, [REDACTED] (a perennial favorite, 'tho' some of his suggestions betray some gaps in his knowledge of the materials of which ladies' undergarments are made and what happens to them if ironed), [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] (after he got his film working), the panel on living conditions,

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didn't cotton to [REDACTED] rather heavy over-sell. The terminal panel fell flat -- no questions.

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5. Since FE/[REDACTED] has only a March 1966 overall Mission post report (fine for State, AID and JUSPAO), and since the other FE/[REDACTED] briefing materials are -- it seems -- in disorganized shape and available in one copy only, I'd urge that a strenuous effort be made to put together at once a loose-leaf, easily up-date-able Vietnam Station Supplement to the post report. Most especially it should contain specific guidance as to what CIA personnel, male and female, should bring with or have shipped in unaccompanied baggage, in terms of clothing; household furnishings, equipment, linen, silver, dishes, etc., if any; radios, TV, hi-fi or phonographs and adaptors or voltage regulators, etc.; sports and recreational gear; average costs per month at various grade levels in Saigon; a written statement of leave policies, and the various differentials and allowances. Too much of this is left to oral diffusion and inaccurately quoted hearsay and interpretation. As a further observation, the FE/[REDACTED] folks should be cognizant of what CPB tells the traveller, and not take it for granted that the traveller will get the right answers, or force him to wait for the answers until he's ready to process out!

25X1A9a The films, portfolio and handouts furnished by or through [REDACTED] were all pertinent and well-received.

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